MARVEL
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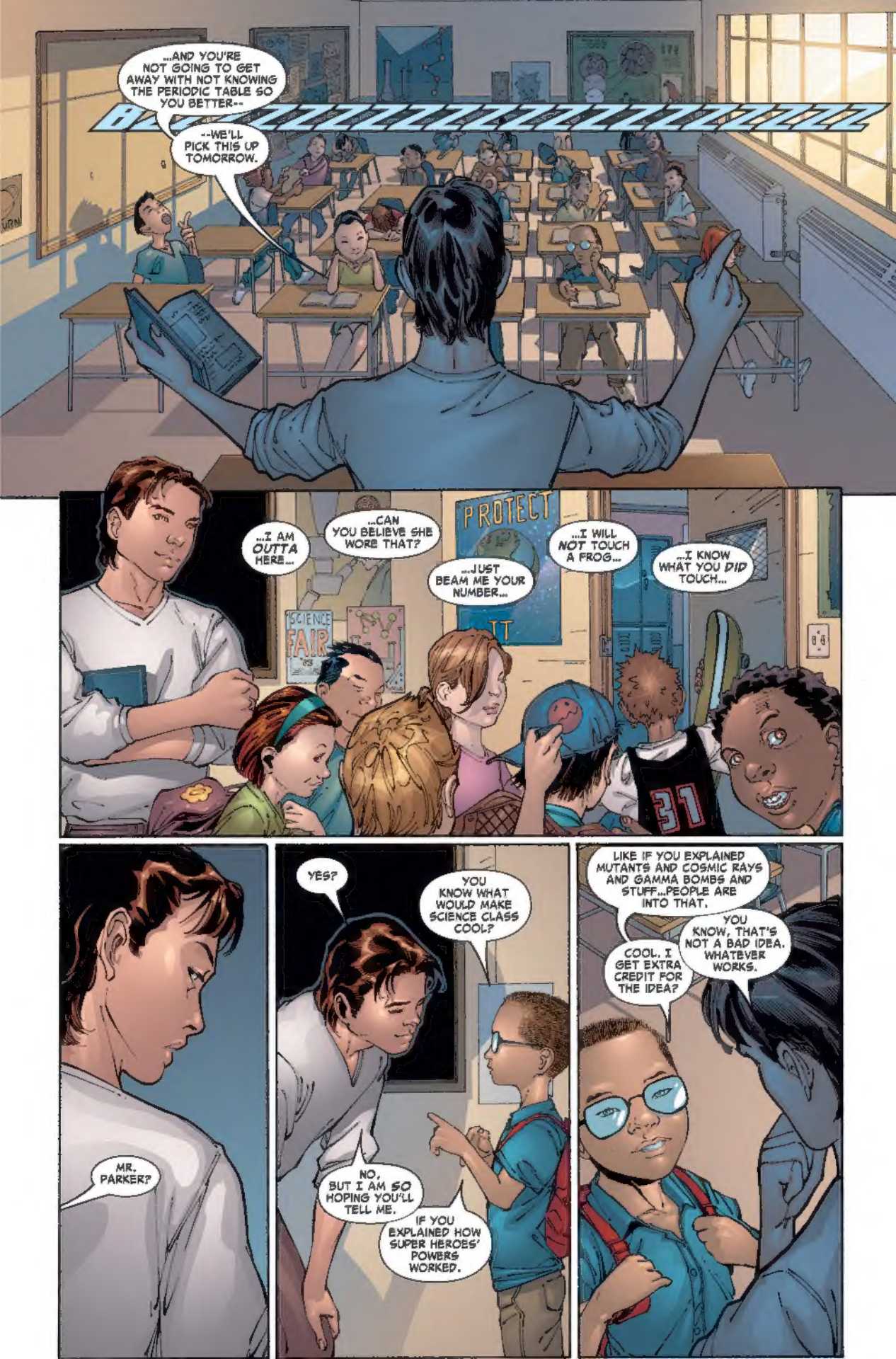
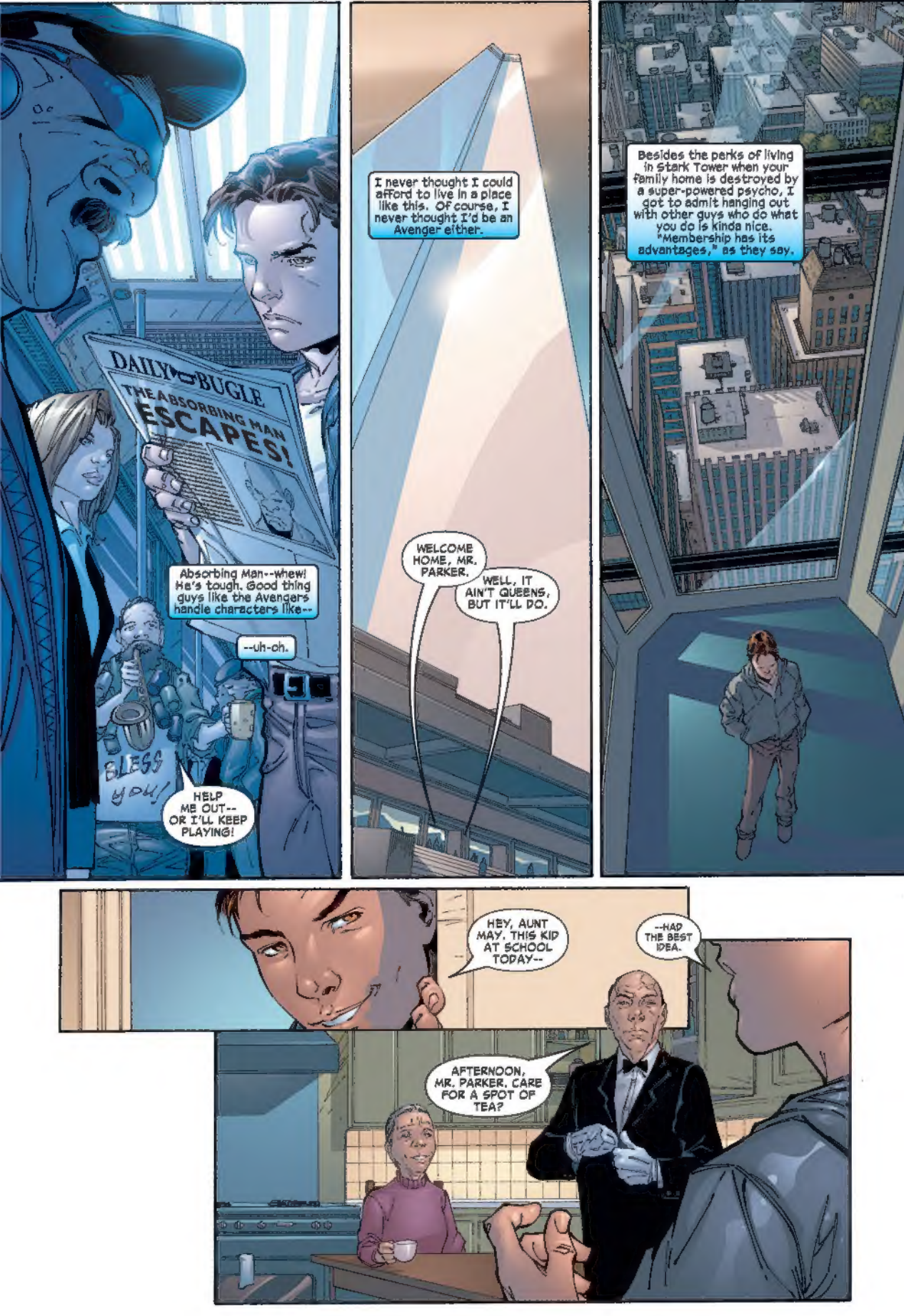
13
REGINALD HUDLIN • BILLY TAN • JON SIBAL
MARVEL KNIGHTS
SPIDER-MAN
GUESS WHO'S COMING TO DINNER!?
MNV
MORALES
MOI
·2004·

WILD BLUE YONDER
PART ONE
JUST PUT AN EXTRA DROP OR TWO IN THERE.
GEEZ, YOU WANNA PUT THE GUY IN A COMA?
REGINALD HUDLIN WRITER
BILLY TAN PENCILS
JOHN SIBAL INKS
AVALON'S IAN HANNIN COLORS
VC'S CORY PETIT LETTERS
STEVE MCNIVEN COVER
CORY SEDLMEIER ASST. EDITOR
AXEL ALONSO EDITOR
JOE QUESADA CHIEF
DAN BUCKLEY PUBLISHER
WHAT'S IN THAT STUFF? SALTPETER?
A LOT STRONGER THAN THAT, ROOKIE.
DON'T GET COMFORTABLE JUST BECAUSE THESE FREAKS ARE IN HIGH-TECH CELLS. WE DON'T KNOW EVERYTHING THEY CAN DO...SOMETIMES THEY DON'T EVEN KNOW ALL OF THEIR POWERS. TILL THEY TRY IT.
THAT'S WHY WE PUT SPECIAL DRUGS IN THEIR FOOD TO KEEP 'EM CHILLED OUT.
FOR EXAMPLE, THIS GUY? HE CAN TURN INTO ANY SUBSTANCE HE TOUCHES AT WILL. HE ALMOST BEAT A NORSE GOD! HE'D RULE THE WORLD IF HE WEREN'T SO STUPID. THE STUFF WE USE ON HIM IS JUST BACKUP.
CREEL? CHOW TIME.
YEAH? WELL, I GOT SOMETHING FOR YOU, TOO...

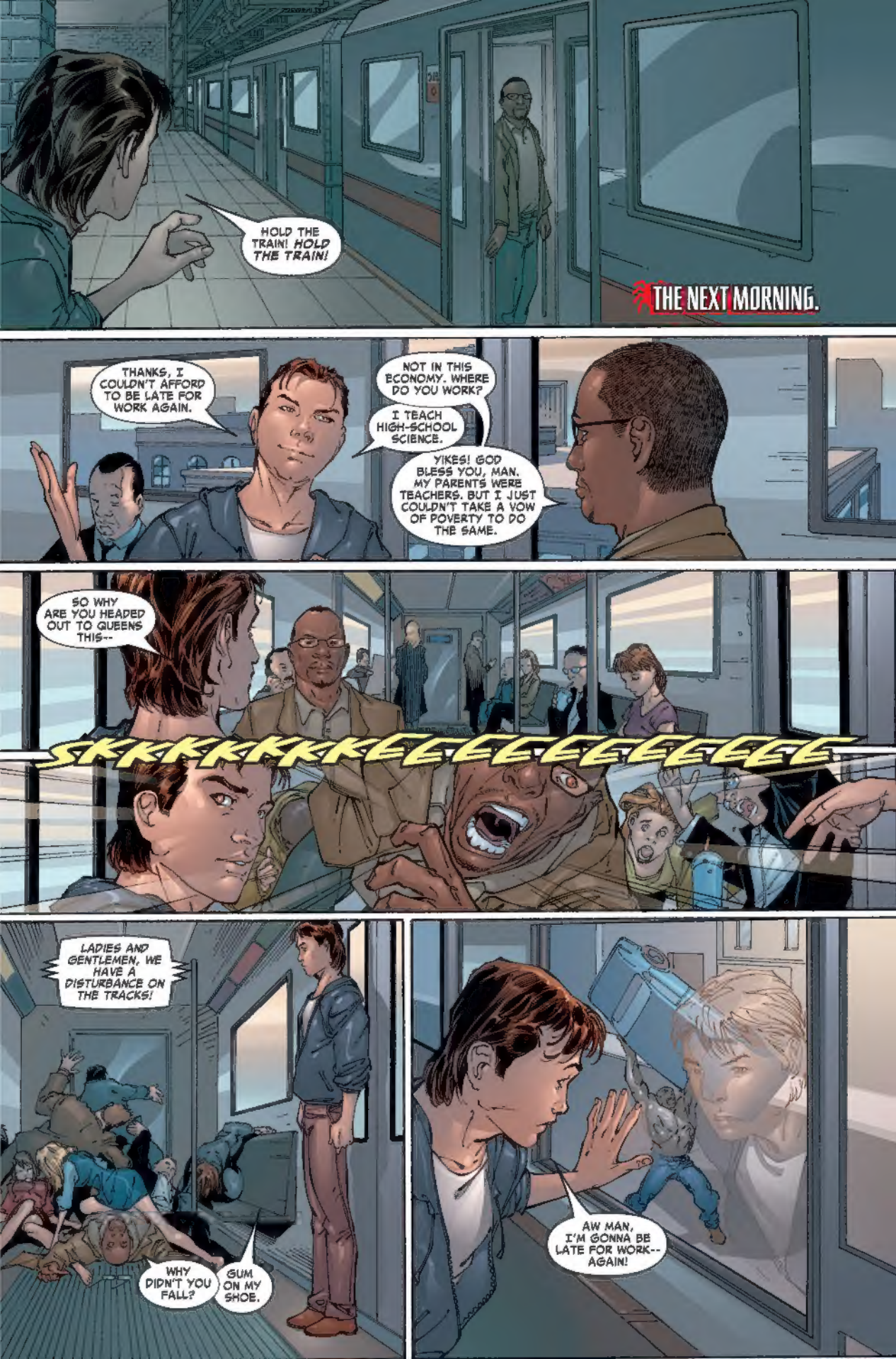
SWEET JEEZUS!
PRISON BREAK! LOCK DOWN ALL CELLS NOW!
OH BOY...
AT LEAST IT'S NOT AS BAD AS NEW YORK...
NOW WHO'S STUPID? THEY'LL NEVER CATCH ME NOW!


...AND YOU'RE NOT GOING TO GET AWAY WITH NOT KNOWING THE PERIODIC TABLE SO YOU BETTER--
--WE'LL PICK THIS UP TOMORROW.
BZZZ

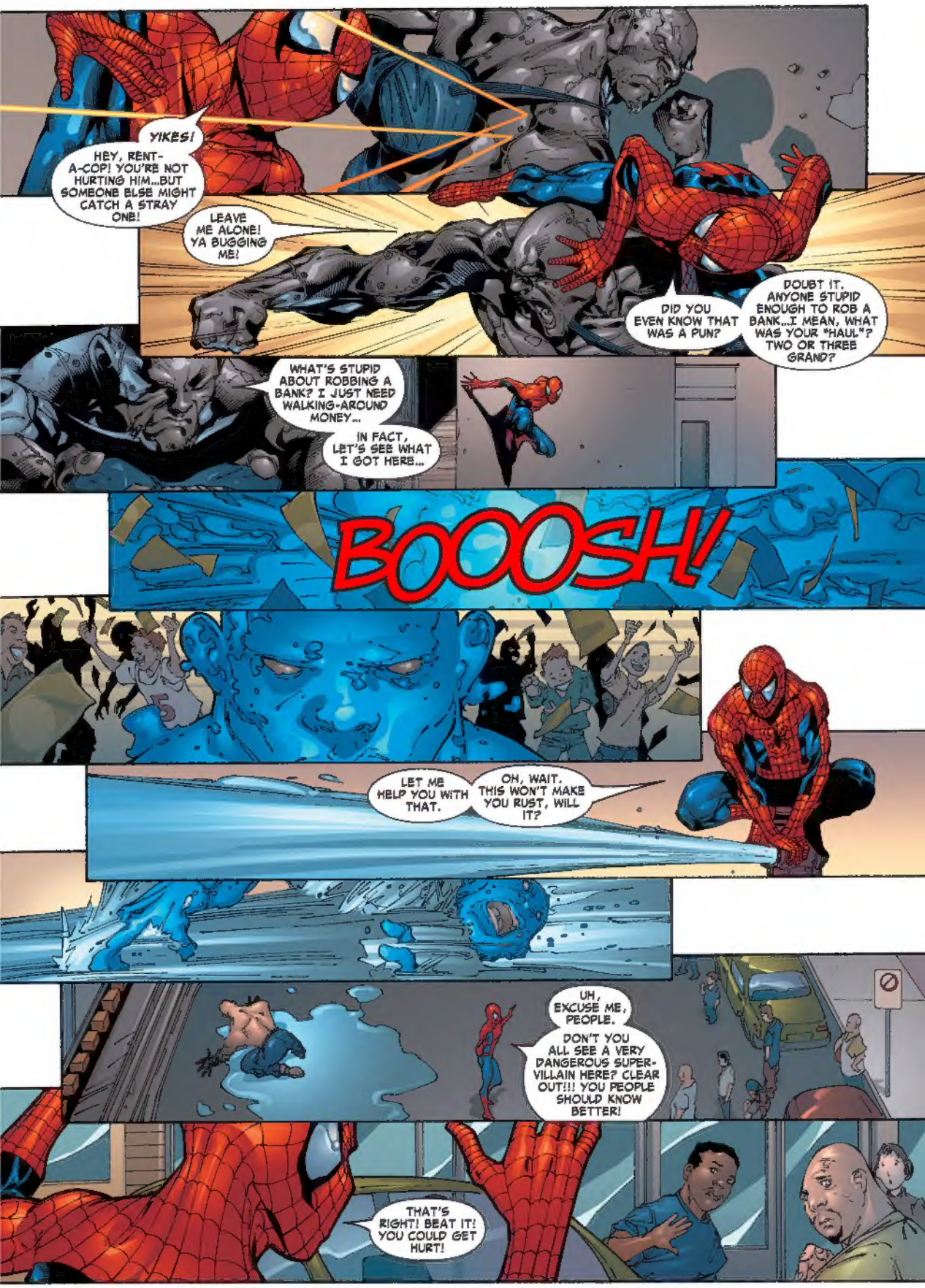

DAILY BUGLE
THE ABSORBING MAN ESCAPES!
Absorbing Man--whew! He's tough. Good thing guys like the Avengers handle characters like--
--uh-oh.
HELP ME OUT-- OR I'LL KEEP PLAYING!
BLESS YOU!
I never thought I could afford to live in a place like this. Of course, I never thought I'd be an Avenger either.
WELCOME HOME, MR. PARKER.
WELL, IT AIN'T QUEENS, BUT IT'LL DO.
Besides the perks of living in Stark Tower when your family home is destroyed by a super-powered psycho, I got to admit hanging out with other guys who do what you do is kinda nice. "Membership has its advantages," as they say.
HEY, AUNT MAY. THIS KID AT SCHOOL TODAY--
--HAD THE BEST IDEA.
AFTERNOON, MR. PARKER. CARE FOR A SPOT OF TEA?

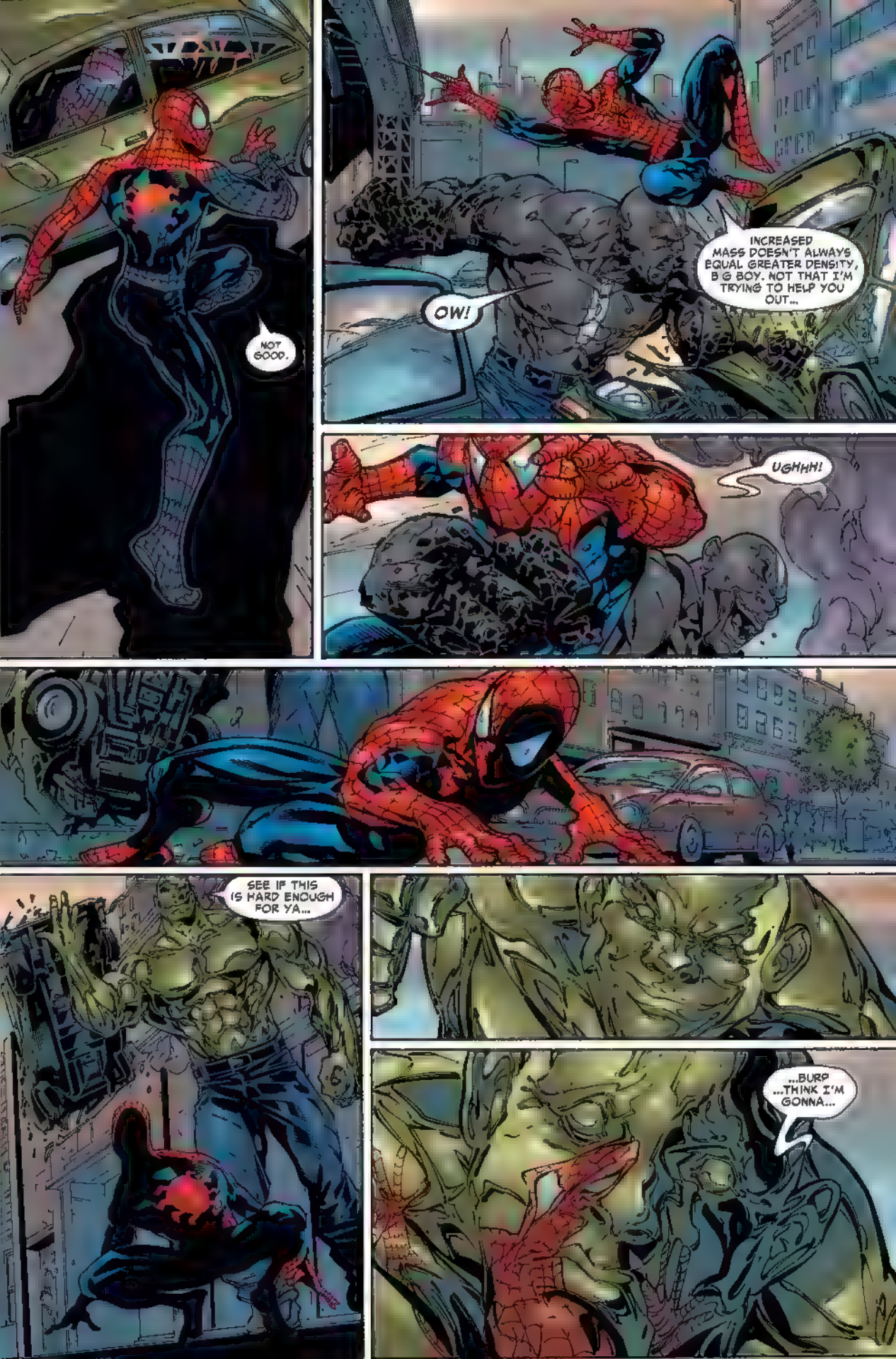
HUH?
TEA?
UH, NO. WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, JARVIS? SHOULDN'T YOU BE POLISHING IRON MAN'S HELMET OR SOMETHING?
PETER! IS SOMETHING WRONG?
NO, UH, I GUESS IT'S REALLY NOT MY BUSINESS...
IS MARY JANE HOME?
SHE'S DUE BACK ANY MOMENT.
MASTER PETER, THERE'S A BRIEFING ON THE ABSORBING MAN IN THE MAIN CONFERENCE ROOM AT 1600 HOURS. IT'S OPTIONAL, BUT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO YOU.
YEAH, THANKS FOR "EVERYTHING," JARVIS.
OH, DEAR...
MARY JANE--GREAT! HONEY, I REALLY NEED TO TALK WITH YOU ABOUT THIS WHOLE--
WHAT'S WRONG, PETER?

OH NOTHING... EXCEPT I GET HOME FROM WORK AND FIND AVENGERS HANGING OUT IN MY HOME LIKE IT'S A SINGLES BAR!
OH, YEAH? CAN SCOTT SUMMERS CONFIRM THAT FOR ME?
YOU'RE OUT OF LINE THERE, BUB. I DON'T DO THAT.
TEAMMATE OR NOT, NOBODY MOUTHS OFF TO ME LIKE THAT.
DON'T GET CUTE AND POP THOSE BOTTLE OPENERS. I WILL PERMANENTLY WEB THEM UP YOUR--
ANGEL
ALL RIGHT, CAVEMEN--BREAK IT UP.
PARKER, AS A GUY WITH A TEMPER, I'M TELLING YA--COOL DOWN.
COOL DOWN? LOOK, HEDGEHOG--
YOU'RE HAVING A FLASH THOMPSON FLASHBACK, TIGER, LET IT GO. YOU WON A LONG TIME AGO.
YOU DON'T THINK I'D ACTUALLY BE ATTRACTED TO A HAIRY MIDGET, DO YOU?
HEY, YOU MARRIED ME!

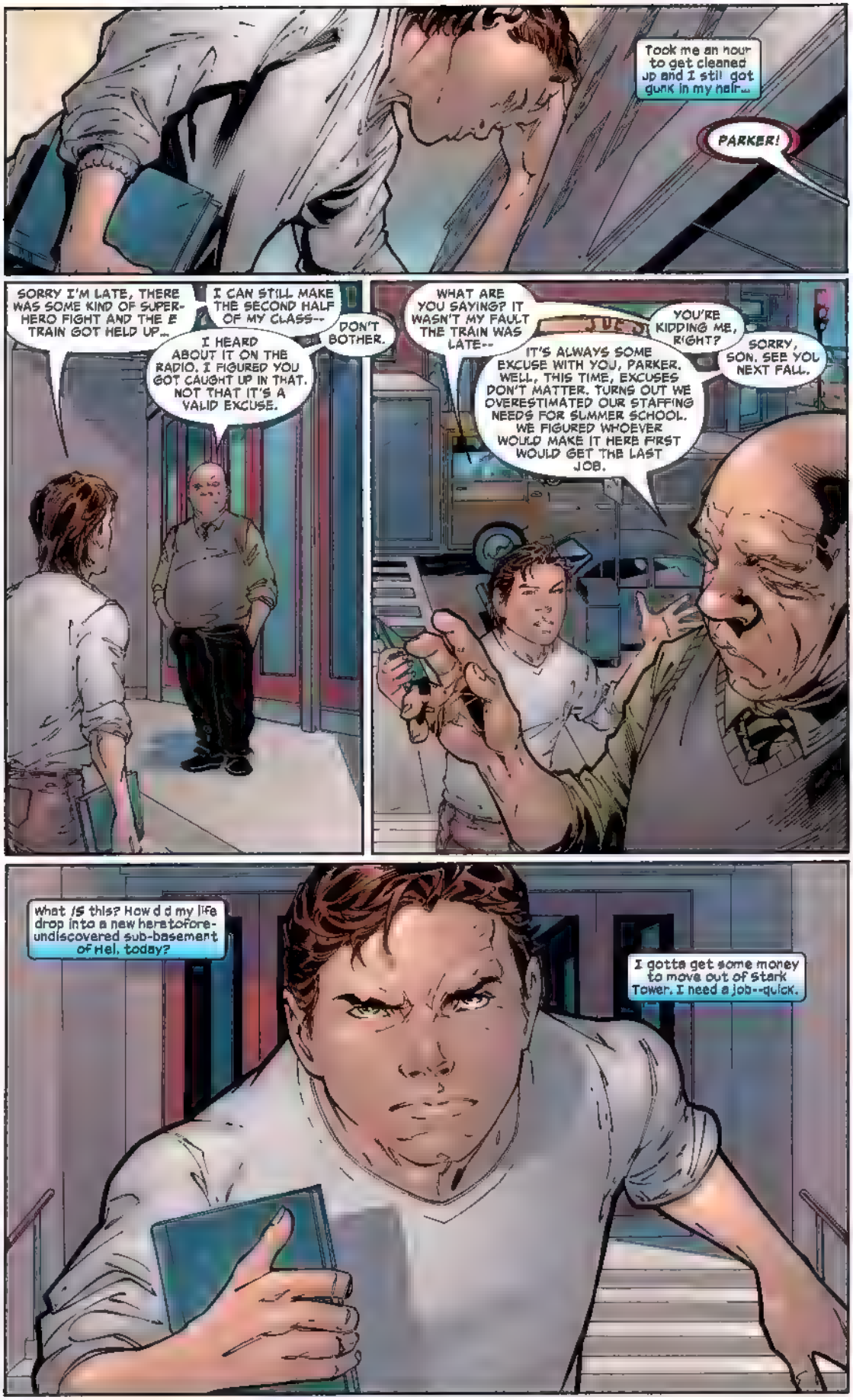

HOLD THE TRAIN! HOLD THE TRAIN!
THE NEXT MORNING.
THANKS, I COULDN'T AFFORD TO BE LATE FOR WORK AGAIN.
NOT IN THIS ECONOMY. WHERE DO YOU WORK?
I TEACH HIGH-SCHOOL SCIENCE.
YIKES! GOD BLESS YOU, MAN. MY PARENTS WERE TEACHERS. BUT I JUST COULDN'T TAKE A VOW OF POVERTY TO DO THE SAME.
SO WHY ARE YOU HEADED OUT TO QUEENS THIS--
SKKKKKKKKEEEEEEEEEEEEEE
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, WE HAVE A DISTURBANCE ON THE TRACKS!
WHY DIDN'T YOU FALL?
GUM ON MY SHOE.
AW MAN, I'M GONNA BE LATE FOR WORK-- AGAIN!

OKAY, I HOPE EVERYBODY'S LOOKING AT THE ACTION BELOW...
...I HOPE THE TRAIN DOESN'T START MOVING, HOPE I DON'T TOUCH THE THIRD RAIL--
--OH NO! MY KEYS!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY THE BASICS OF THIS SUPER-HERO THING STILL ELUDE ME.
AWWW, LEMME JUST KNOCK THIS CREEP OUT AND GET TO WORK.
BANK

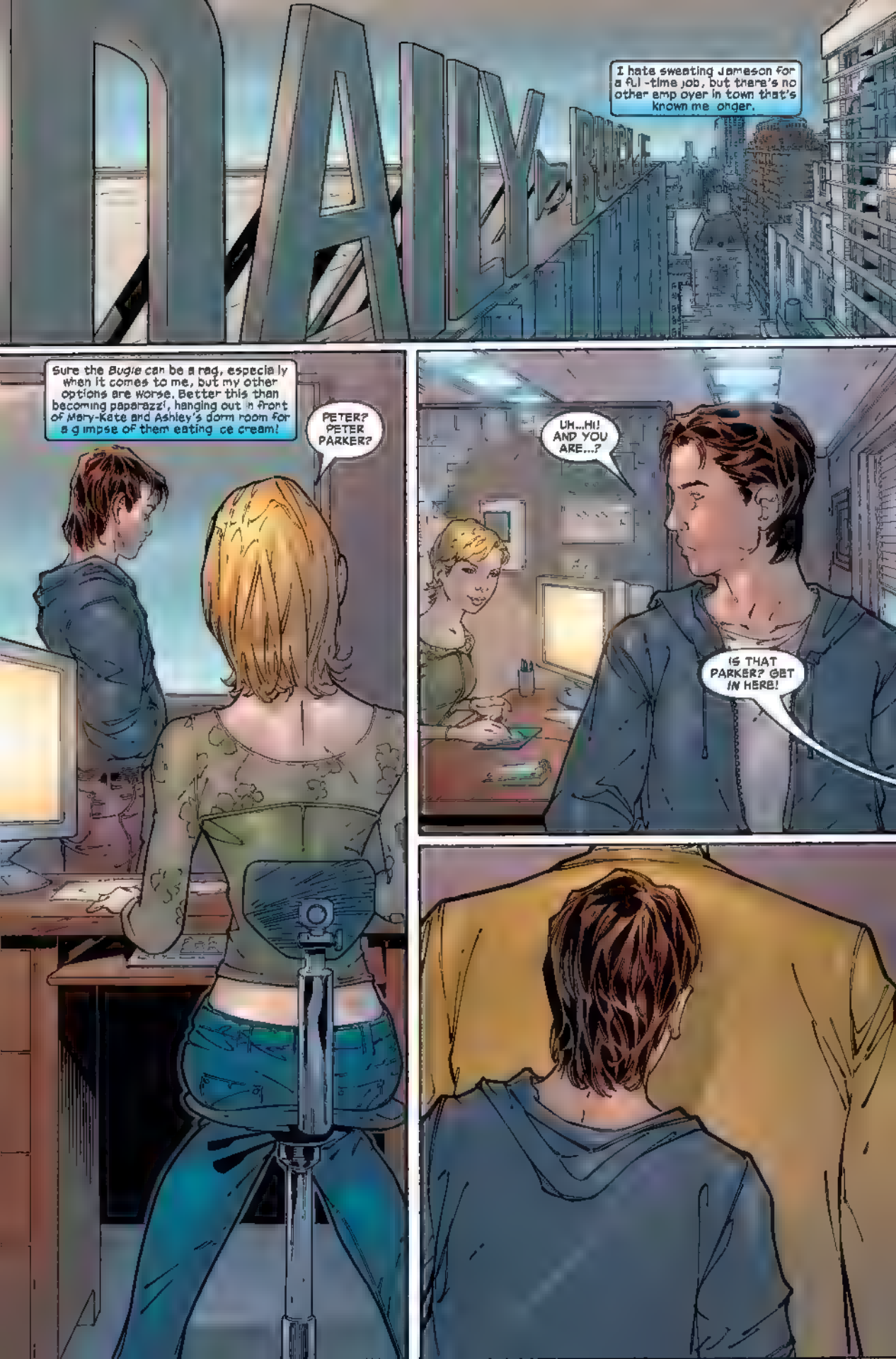

YIKES!
HEY, RENT-A-COP! YOU'RE NOT HURTING HIM...BUT SOMEONE ELSE MIGHT CATCH A STRAY ONE!
LEAVE ME ALONE! YA BUGGING ME!
DID YOU EVEN KNOW THAT WAS A PUN?
DOUBT IT. ANYONE STUPID ENOUGH TO ROB A BANK...I MEAN, WHAT WAS YOUR "HAUL"? TWO OR THREE GRAND?
WHAT'S STUPID ABOUT ROBBING A BANK? I JUST NEED WALKING-AROUND MONEY...
IN FACT, LET'S SEE WHAT I GOT HERE...
BOOOSH!
LET ME HELP YOU WITH THAT.
OH, WAIT. THIS WON'T MAKE YOU RUST, WILL IT?
UH, EXCUSE ME, PEOPLE.
DON'T YOU ALL SEE A VERY DANGEROUS SUPER-VILLAIN HERE? CLEAR OUT!!! YOU PEOPLE SHOULD KNOW BETTER!
THAT'S RIGHT! BEAT IT! YOU COULD GET HURT!


NOT GOOD.
OW!
INCREASED MASS DOESN'T ALWAYS EQUAL GREATER DENSITY, B G BOY. NOT THAT I'M TRYING TO HELP YOU OUT...
UGHHH!
SEE IF THIS IS HARD ENOUGH FOR YA...
...BURP ...THINK I'M GONNA...

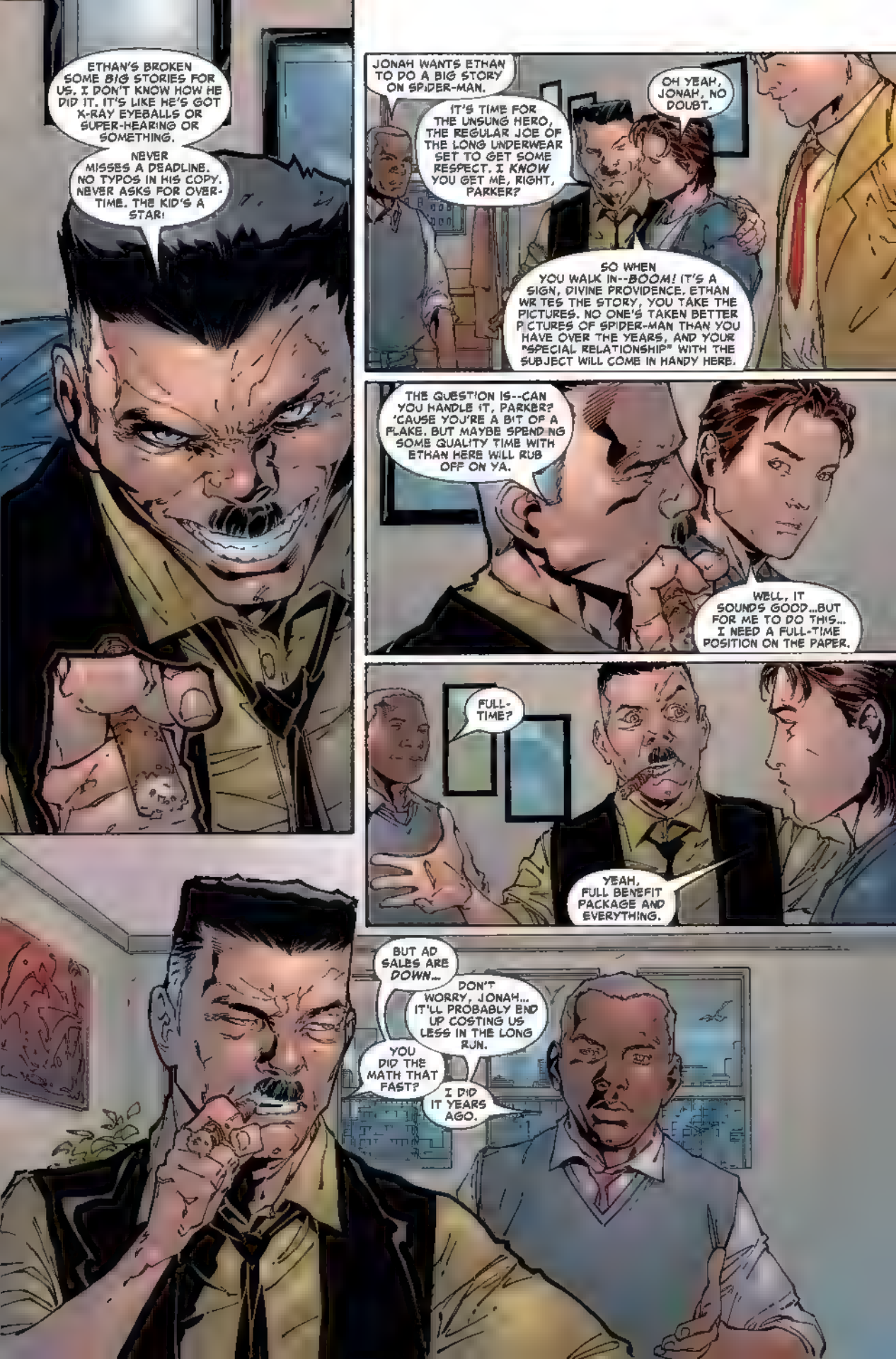
BWAAAH!
I...DON'... FEEL...SO... GOOD.
NO KIDDING. THAT WAS DISGUSTING!
LOOK, HE'S NORMAL AGAIN. WE CAN TAKE HIM!
YOU FIRST.
DOES IT STINK?
NOT LIKE THAT, STUPID. THE GUY WAS MADE OF STREET. HE THREW UP ROCKS AND TAR AND... DEBRIS. YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.
WHEN THE THING THROWS UP, DOES HIS VOMIT LOOK LIKE THIS?
WHAAH!
WHERE... IS...HE...?
HE SHRUNK DOWN AND BOOKED... RAN THAT AWAY.
HE JUST RAN AWAY? NOBODY DID ANYTHING?
HEY, I DON'T EVEN WANT REGULAR THROW-UP ON ME.


Took me an hour to get cleaned up and I still got gunk in my hair...
PARKER!
SORRY I'M LATE, THERE WAS SOME KIND OF SUPER-HERO FIGHT AND THE E TRAIN GOT HELD UP...
I CAN STILL MAKE THE SECOND HALF OF MY CLASS--
DON'T BOTHER.
I HEARD ABOUT IT ON THE RADIO. I FIGURED YOU GOT CAUGHT UP IN THAT. NOT THAT IT'S A VALID EXCUSE.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? IT WASN'T MY FAULT THE TRAIN WAS LATE--
YOU'RE KIDDING ME, RIGHT?
SORRY, SON. SEE YOU NEXT FALL.
IT'S ALWAYS SOME EXCUSE WITH YOU, PARKER. WELL, THIS TIME, EXCUSES DON'T MATTER. TURNS OUT WE OVERESTIMATED OUR STAFFING NEEDS FOR SUMMER SCHOOL. WE FIGURED WHOEVER WOULD MAKE IT HERE FIRST WOULD GET THE LAST JOB.
What IS this? How'd my life drop into a new heretofore-undiscovered sub-basement of Hell, today?
I gotta get some money to move out of Stark Tower. I need a job--quick.

WHERE IS IT? WHERE IS IT?!
WAITAMINUTE... YEAH THIS IS IT!
IS THIS WHAT THE MIGHTY ABSORBING MAN IS REDUCED TO...?
SNEAK UP ON ME? I'LL KILL--
...A DRUGSTORE COWBOY FEEDING HIS JAILHOUSE HABIT?
...WHOOO, IT'S KICKING IN. THAT'S MORE LIKE IT...
DON'T WORRY, I'VE GOT AN ENDLESS SUPPLY OF WHAT YOU NEED. MY EMPLOYER WILL KEEP YOU STRAIGHT IN RETURN FOR SOME FAVORS...
...EMPLOYER?


I hate sweating Jameson for a full-time job, but there's no other employer in town that's known me longer.
Sure the Bugle can be a rag, especially when it comes to me, but my other options are worse. Better this than becoming paparazzi, hanging out in front of Mary-Kate and Ashley's dorm room for a glimpse of them eating ice cream!
PETER? PETER PARKER?
UH...HI! AND YOU ARE...?
IS THAT PARKER? GET IN HERE!

OH! SORRY ABOUT THAT!
NO. MY BAD.
GOOD. YOU GUYS HAVE MET!
OH NO, I'VE DONE IT AGAIN. I'M SUCH AN OX--
OKAY, MAYBE YOU ARE.
PARKER! GLAD TO SEE YOU!
PARKER, I WANT YOU TO MEET ETHAN EDWARDS. HE'S OUR NEW STAR REPORTER. JUST MOVED HERE FROM THE STICKS--
IOWA, ACTUALLY.
--BUT HE'S ALREADY MADE A SPLASH IN THE BIG CITY.
GREAT TO MEET YOU.
LIKEWISE.
SEE HOW THE FARM BOY DRESSES? NICE SUIT AND TIE? HE JUST GOT THE HAY OUT OF HIS HAIR AND HE'S ALREADY GOT MORE CLASS THAN MOST OF THE SLOBS IN THIS BUILDING.


ETHAN'S BROKEN SOME BIG STORIES FOR US. I DON'T KNOW HOW HE DID IT. IT'S LIKE HE'S GOT X-RAY EYEBALLS OR SUPER-HEARING OR SOMETHING.
NEVER MISSES A DEADLINE. NO TYPOS IN HIS COPY. NEVER ASKS FOR OVERTIME. THE KID'S A STAR!
JONAH WANTS ETHAN TO DO A BIG STORY ON SPIDER-MAN.
IT'S TIME FOR THE UNSUNG HERO, THE REGULAR JOE OF THE LONG UNDERWEAR SET TO GET SOME RESPECT. I KNOW YOU GET ME, RIGHT, PARKER?
OH YEAH, JONAH, NO DOUBT.
SO WHEN YOU WALK IN--BOOM! IT'S A SIGN, DIVINE PROVIDENCE. ETHAN WRITES THE STORY, YOU TAKE THE PICTURES. NO ONE'S TAKEN BETTER PICTURES OF SPIDER-MAN THAN YOU HAVE OVER THE YEARS, AND YOUR "SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP" WITH THE SUBJECT WILL COME IN HANDY HERE.
THE QUESTION IS--CAN YOU HANDLE IT, PARKER? 'CAUSE YOU'RE A BIT OF A FLAKE. BUT MAYBE SPENDING SOME QUALITY TIME WITH ETHAN HERE WILL RUB OFF ON YA.
WELL, IT SOUNDS GOOD...BUT FOR ME TO DO THIS... I NEED A FULL-TIME POSITION ON THE PAPER.
FULL-TIME?
YEAH, FULL BENEFIT PACKAGE AND EVERYTHING.
BUT AD SALES ARE DOWN...
DON'T WORRY, JONAH... IT'LL PROBABLY END UP COSTING US LESS IN THE LONG RUN.
YOU DID THE MATH THAT FAST?
I DID IT YEARS AGO.

YOU MEAN I'VE BEEN OVERPAYING THIS CLOWN ALL THIS TIME?
OKAY THEN...BUT YOU'LL START ON A PROBATIONARY PERIOD--
PROBA--I'VE BEEN WORKING FOR THIS PAPER SINCE HIGH SCHOOL! I TOOK PICTURES OF SPIDER-BOY.
FINE... ROBBIE?
I'LL HANDLE IT.
WELL, LOOKS LIKE YOU GUYS ARE A TEAM.
LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS, PETER.
SAME HERE.
Man, this guy is setting my Spider Sense off in a big way. What is it about him? He looks so familiar...I can't place it.
ALL RIGHT, BOYS, YOU'VE GOT MY TRUST, YOU'VE GOT MY MONEY, NOW DON'T SCREW IT UP.
That went way easier than expected. Man, Jonah looks even creepier when he smiles
Hmmm, where'd that pretty blonde go?

YOU WILL BE PROVIDED WITH A LIST. YOU WILL KILL EVERY PERSON ON THIS LIST IN 72 HOURS. IN RETURN, YOU WILL GET ALL THE PHARMACEUTICAL GRADE NARCOTIC YOU DESIRE.
GIVEN YOUR SPECIAL ABILITIES, COMPLETING THIS TASK SHOULD BE EASY. SO THE PENALTY FOR FAILURE WILL BE ESPECIALLY HARSH.
I DON'T SCARE EASY...BUT DON'T SWEAT IT. I'LL GET THIS JOB DONE IN--HEY!
YOU GOT A COUPLE'A CAPES ON THIS LIST.
ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY YOU CAN'T HANDLE THE JOB?
NAW, JOB IS EASY. I'M JUST SAYING, THAT'S A LOTTA HEAT ON ME AFTER I DO IT.
DON'T WORRY, CREEL, I WILL MAKE SURE THEY NEVER FIND YOU.
ALL RIGHT. HAVE MY STUFF WAITING FOR ME. THIS WON'T TAKE LONG.

OBVIOUSLY, ALL OF US ARE COMBAT VETERANS WITH YEARS OF EXPERIENCE. BUT THE AVENGERS FUNCTION BEST AS A WELL-DRILLED TEAM WHOSE MEMBERS CAN ANTICIPATE EACH OTHER'S MOVES.
WE'LL BREAK INTO TWO TEAMS. SPIDER-MAN, LUKE CAGE, AND MYSELF ON ONE TEAM. IRON MAN, WOLVERINE AND SPIDER-WOMAN ON THE OTHER.
SKIRMISH BEGINS IN 5, 4, 3, 2--

NO JOKES THIS TIME?
HERE'S ONE I LIKE.
YEAH, NOW THAT WAS FUNNY!

TAG, YOU'RE IT, BOY!
LOGAN... YOU IDIOT...
OH MY GOD! HE'S BEEN STABBED!
TO BE CONTINUED

MARVEL KNIGHTS SPIDER-MAN

Wait a second? Who's that invading Spidey's airspace? You'll have to wait 30 days to find out, but in the meantime save those pennies because we've got even more coming your way from our MARVEL KNIGHTS SPIDEY madmen REGGIE HUDLIN and BILLY TAN!

In fact, how could we be so cruel to make you wait? BLACK PANTHER #3 is on sale today! That's, like, right now! Trot on down the aisle and pick up a copy of the action-packed new series by REGGIE HUDLIN and the incomparable JOHN ROMITA JR. This one's the toast of 2005, celebrated everywhere from Variety to The New York Times! Be careful though, True Believer, you may have to slip on your vibranium gloves to handle a series this epic!

Black Panther #3

The tour-de-force origin of X-23 reaches fever pitch with issue #5! On sale April 20th with artwork by MK's very own BILLY TAN and JON SIBAL! If you haven't picked up this red-hot series yet, please consult your physician—now! You may be in need of medical help!

X23 #5

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NEXT ISSUE:

Ummm...Cap? Spidey's got a biiiig ouchie! And how about a little more of that mystery lady?